

REMARKS

Claims 16-19, 21-38, 49-91, 108-114 are pending in the present application. Applicants have canceled claims 75, and 108-114 without prejudice and amended claims 25, 26, 28, 36-38, 60 and 87. The amendments to these claims involve correcting informalities and deleting non-elected subject matter and do not raise any issue of new matter. Therefore, entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 16-19, 21-38, 49-74 and 76-91 will be under examination.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group I claims for examination on the merits. Applicants have canceled Group II and Group II claims without prejudice.

Applicants also elect, without traverse, bicarbonate or phosphate as the alkalinizing agent and powder as the dosage form, for examination on the merits. Applicants respectfully point out that claims 16-19, 21-38, 49-74, 76-91 read on the elected species.

Applicants would like to direct the examiner's attention to M.P.E.P. §803.02 which requires that "should no prior art be found that anticipates or renders obvious the elected species, the search of the Markush-type claim will be extended." Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner continue to examine metal hydroxide or metal oxide as well as packet, suspension, tablet and capsule if the claims reading on bicarbonate or phosphate and powder are found allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the claim amendments and the remarks, early and favorable consideration of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of the present Amendment. However, if any fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-1445.

Date: 04/27/2005

Respectfully submitted,

Lance Liu  
Lance Y. Liu  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 45,379

Customer No. 28523  
Pfizer Inc.  
Patent Department, MS 8260-1611  
Eastern Point Road  
Groton, Connecticut 06340  
(860) 686-1652